

## MEMORANDUM

## NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

URGENT ACTION

January 14, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: BRENT SCOWCROFT

FROM: TOM BARNES  
LES JANKA/ea

SUBJECT: Presidential Letters in Support of the  
Northern Marianas Covenant

We understand that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has scheduled mark-up of the resolution to approve the Northern Marianas Covenant for Tuesday, January 20. There are also indications that the Senate Armed Services Committee will take up the legislation either Tuesday, January 20, or Wednesday, January 21.

In your December 11 meeting with Ambassador Haydn Williams, you agreed to recommend Presidential involvement in the effort to overcome opposition to the Covenant in these two key committees. In addition, you indicated you would request Secretary Rumsfeld to try to influence Senator Percy who intends to propose a delay in the Covenant's approval until negotiations with the remaining Micronesian territories are completed. You also agreed to suggest to Secretary Kissinger that he try to turn Senator Javits around on this issue.

In view of pending committee action, attached at Tab A are proposed letters for the President's signature to the Chairmen and ranking minority members of the Foreign Relations and Armed Services Committees. At Tab B are suggested talking points for use in your conversations with Secretaries Kissinger and Rumsfeld. Other briefing material giving full argumentation is at Tab C. The proposed letters have been cleared by Paul Theis' office.

RECOMMENDATION

-- That you sign the memorandum at Tab I to the President recommending that he sign the letters to Chairmen Stennis and Sparkman as well as Senators Thurmond and Case.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

PHOTOCOPY FROM GERALD FORD LIBRARY

- That you telephone Secretary Rumsfeld requesting him to try to influence Senator Percy, who has proposed an amendment that would delay Congressional approval of the Covenant.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

- That you contact Secretary Kissinger requesting him to contact Senator Javits on this issue.

APPROVE \_\_\_\_\_ DISAPPROVE \_\_\_\_\_

Max Friedersdorf concurs.

Talking Points in Support of the Marianas Covenant (HJR 549, as amended)

-- The people of the Northern Marianas and the Marianas Legislature have voted overwhelmingly in a U. N. observed plebiscite for Commonwealth status with the United States.

-- The Congress of Micronesia, which represents all the districts of the Trust Territory, also supports the Covenant.

-- The Covenant should be approved without delay. It is an important step toward fulfilling our international obligations by honoring the principle of self-determination.

-- Approval of the Covenant will assure that the strategically located islands will not again become the object of international rivalry and armed hostility.

-- This move will also strengthen U. S. security interests in the Pacific and the defense of vital facilities on Guam.

Arguments Against Delay

-- Deferral or defeat could create serious problems in the Northern Marianas and damage U. S. credibility in Guam and in the remainder of the Trust Territory.

-- Deferral would undermine the pro-American political leadership and encourage the small but highly vocal anti-American minority in the Marianas.

-- Deferral would hinder the progress that the Congress of Micronesia and the Northern Marianas have made in reaching agreement for an orderly separation.

-- Delay will not change the fundamental fact that the people of the Northern Marianas clearly desire union with the U. S. while the rest of the Trust Territory is leaning to a more independent association with the United States. To force the people of the Northern Marianas to continue to participate in a political process with the other districts (in the Congress of Micronesia) would be awkward and disruptive.

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NSC CORRESPONDENCE PROFILE

DOC		RECD		LOG NBR	
MO	DA	MO	DA	HR	
7	14	1	15	13	7600283

INITIAL A

*Barnes*

TO: PRES \_\_\_\_\_  
 KISSINGER \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCOWCROFT + \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAVIS \_\_\_\_\_

FROM: KISSINGER, H \_\_\_\_\_  
 COLBY, W \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCHLESINGER, J \_\_\_\_\_  
 ST EX SEC \_\_\_\_\_

REFERENCE: S/S \_\_\_\_\_  
 OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

CIRCLE AS APPROPRIATE  
 (UNCLAS) LOG IN/OUT  
 LOU NO FORN NODIS  
 C EYES ONLY EXDIS  
 S CODEWORD  
 TS SENSITIVE

SUBJECT: *His Ltrs in Support of the Northern Marianas Government*

SOURCE/CLASS/DESCRIPTION

DISTRIBUTION/INITIAL ACTION ASGMT

INTERNAL ROUTING AND DISTRIBUTION		REC CY FOR
	ACTION	INFO
ADVANCE CYS TO HAK/SCOWCROFT		
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FAR EAST <i>Barnes</i>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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NSC PLANNING		
CONGRESSIONAL		
OCEANS POLICY		
INTELLIGENCE		

ACTION REQUIRED

MEMO FOR HAK \_\_\_\_\_

MEMO FOR PRES \_\_\_\_\_

REPLY FOR \_\_\_\_\_

APPROPRIATE ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

MEMO \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS \_\_\_\_\_

JOINT MEMO \_\_\_\_\_

REFER TO \_\_\_\_\_ FOR \_\_\_\_\_

ANY ACTION NECESSARY? \_\_\_\_\_

CONCURRENCE \_\_\_\_\_

DUE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS: (INCLUDING SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS)

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SUBSEQUENT ROUTING/ACTIONS

DATE	FROM	TO	S	SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED (OR TAKEN):	CY
1/14	<del>X</del>	<i>Draft</i>	X	<i>Decision (1-22)</i>	
1/15		<i>Draft</i>	S	<i>Decision after per note 1/15</i>	
1/15		<i>Summary</i>	X	<i>Decision after</i>	
1/16		<i>PRES "P"</i>		<i>59N LTRS TO SENATORS</i>	
1/17		<i>1/17</i>	C	<i>Final</i>	

NSC/S INSTR DISP

DISPATCH \_\_\_\_\_

CY RQMTS: SEE ABOVE PLUS: \_\_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_\_

NOTIFY \_\_\_\_\_ & DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL DISPOSITION: \_\_\_\_\_

CROSS REF W/ \_\_\_\_\_ FOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_

SUSPENSE CY ATTACHED: ~~X~~

MICROFILM & FILE RQMTS:

M/F/D \_\_\_\_\_

CRITICAL 1978

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